

Facebook Covid-19 Update # 65

August 6, 2021

BallouLife Communities remains Covid-19 free. We tested all staff, vaccinated and unvaccinated last week, all were negative. We have been utilizing agency and they are required to be tested every two weeks if unvaccinated, those tests are provided to the facility. If vaccinated, proof of vaccination is required. This holds true for any vendors and other ancillary staff that come into the building. Of course, masking is required by all.

The Delta Variant is causing most of the issues. However, the Lambda Variant is starting to show up in more and more statistics. Also, there is the Delta Plus variant in California. The variants will continue to spawn until we gain a herd immunity through vaccination. While the numbers are not as drastic as they were back in January when we were at peak you have to take into consideration the workforce. Back when Covid was "new" we were fully staffed, since then staffing has incurred a significant decline. Hospitals have bed capacity but no nurses to take care of the patients. For example, Texas statewide has 23,000 RN job openings and no one to fill them. Nurses have died from Covid, have retired, have burnt out and left the field and this just doesn't pertain to nurses, all healthcare fields show similar issues, staffing is a major component of our current crisis.

Now for our localized statistics, we have moved from substantial transmission to high transmission as we now have 105 cases per 100,000, last week this was 55 cases per 100,000. New hospitalizations have increased to thirty four from twenty two last week. Vaccinations have slightly increased; partially vaccinated 722,182 or 68.3 percent, fully vaccinated 661,731 or 61.9 percent, total doses given 1,336,679. BallouLife Communities remains at 96 percent for residents and 75.3 percent for staff, slightly down but this is based on the mix of ancillary staff coming into the facility over the course of the past week.

Rhode Island remains with one of the lowest positivity rates but last week there were twenty nine states with a positivity rate below 5 percent, now there are only nine. Rhode Island comes in seventh on this list with a 3.3 percent positivity rate, last week we were at 2.28. The balance are as follows: Vermont 2.5 percent, last week 1.55 percent; Massachusetts 2.59 percent, last week 1.8 percent; New York 2.74 percent, last week 2.17 percent; Connecticut 3.12 percent, last week 2.95 percent; New Hampshire 4.78 percent, last week 2.62 percent; Maine 4.97 percent, last week 2.27 percent.

The county numbers reflect the state numbers. Providence County 3.2 percent positive, last week 1.8 percent; Kent County 3.1 percent, last week 2.5 percent, Washington County 3.0 percent, last week 1.5 percent, Newport County 4.2 percent, last week 2.1 percent and Bristol County 2.1 percent, last week 2.0 percent.

The CDC Covid Data Tracker for the 7-day moving average for reported cases shows 66,606 an increase of 64.1 percent from last week's total of 40,957 cases. Testing's 7-day average is now 7.8 percent positive, last week this was 6 percent, a 31 percent increase. Vaccinations are showing a positive trend and are up 16.5 percent from last week, a lot of these are in the states that are experiencing an outbreak. New hospitalizations 7-day average is 5,475, a 46.3 percent increase from the prior 7-day average 3,742. Hospitalizations have consistently increased since June 25, 2021. New deaths (296) have increased 33.3 percent (222). This number is 91.8 percent lower than the peak in January 13, 2021 but is 77.1 percent higher than the lowest value observed on July 10, 2021.

These numbers continue to boggle my mind. It is hard to wrap my brain around this. Each week as the numbers continue to grow I wonder when BallouLife Communities will become part of these statistics. Collectively we need to do our utmost to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Obviously, everyone knows I am a strong proponent of the vaccine but if you don't want the vaccine then please practice precautions. These protect everyone.

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance and get a vaccine.

Respectfully submitted,

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Infection Preventionist